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INFORMATION FROM FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS REPORT

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COUNTRY

CD NO.

Czechoslovakia

DATE OF

SUBJECT

Economia - Agriculture

INFORMATION 1949

HOW

PUBLISHED Daily newspaper

DATE DIST. /8 May 1949

WHERE

PUBLISHED Prague

NO. OF PAGES

DATE

PUBLISHED 13 Mar 1949

SUPPLEMENT TO

REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE Czech

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

Zemedelske Weving, No 61, 1949.

SOIL IMPROVEMENT STUDY TO INCREASE PRODUCTION

The Institute for Plant Culture in Brno conducted a soil analysis in the fall of 1948; 89.79 percent of all land tested was neutral and the rest was weakly acid. The phosphate in the soils is inadequate; 15.47 percent of soil tested has a very good and 19.27 percent a good, supply of phosphorus; 2.73 percent was badly supplied, 17.12 percent weakly supplied; and 45.41 had a sparse supply.

Potash is in better supply than phosphates; 66.47 percent of the soil tested showed very good amounts of potash, and 19 percent good amounts; 9.56 percent is moderately supplied with potash, and 4.97 percent weakly supplied. These two latter types of soils must be improved with potassium salts.

The 1948 harvest of the state farm in Branky was nearly up to average. Zidlochovice bearied wheat was planted in the fall after red clover and fertilized with three quintals of phosphetes and two quintals of potassium salts per hectare. No ware fertilizer was used in the spring. The harvest, around 20 August, gave 22 quintals per hactare compared with a normal 26 quintals per hectare. Rye was sown after barley and fertilized in the same way as the wheat. Somewhat more than 22 quintals were obtained per hectare. More than 27 quintals of Flacmingold cats were harvested per hectare. This was a very good yield. The summer mixture (for feed: cover crop and barley) gave more than 21 quintals per hectare; 1.80 hectare of spring beets gave 13 quintals. Forty heatares of flax gave 90 kilograms of flax seed and 14.60 quintals of stalks. The average yield of alfalfa was 65 and 80 quintals per hectare, which is excellent; clover with rye-grass yielded from 40 - 36 quintals per hectare.

The mechanical equipment of the farm, which is primarily a stock farm raising cattle and pigs, is as follows: a tractor, which does most of the plowing, one binder, one electric thresher, two seeders, all kinds of plowing

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equipment, two moving machines, one grain harvester, hand weeders, three hay turners, and one hay combine which turns and collects hay.

The following people work on this farm: a manager, an assistant, one guard, one tractor driver, six allowanced workers, five permanent workers, 12 seasonal workers, and, in periods of peak work load, about 10 local workers are hired.

Three head of cattle are usually pastured on one hectare of fattening pasture land. Young cattle above one year gain an average of .75 kilogram per day per head (averaged over a period of 4 years). If the pasture is good, it is sufficient to add one kilogram of chopped straw and one kilogram of dried best cuttings or of potato flakes per head per day. There are 19 separate pastures. The entire pasture land is given about 100 kilograms of calcium nitrate per hectare. In normal years this cycle is repeated four or five times. Thirty-four milch cows and from 22 to 25 young helfers are pastured, and two or three colts are introduced along with the heifers.

The pastures on this farm are thoroughly fertilized. Four quintals of phosphorous fertilizer are applied per hectare in the fall, as well as 2.5 to 3 quintals of potash. In order to maintein humus in the soil, 120 - 150 quintals of cattle manure are applied to each hectare at least every 4 or 5 years. Every fourth or fifth year from 20 to 25 quintals of ground lime are applied per hectare. In the spring the pastures which are to be grazed first are given 200 kilograms of ammonium sulfate per hectare.

Milk production on the state farm is very good and would be better if there were more solid foods such as seed cake, etc. The average milk production of 33 milch cows in 1948 was from 2500 to 4979 liters per year, with a very good average fat content of 4.1 percent.

The Branky state farm is about 350 meters above sea level. The farm contains 108.55 hectares of agricultural land, of which 75.69 hectares is arable land, 1.21 is hay fields, 22.55 fattening pesture, 1.35 is gardens, 195 is woods, 4.14 is grazing land, .71 is fenced-in land, .97 is roads, etc., and 1.22 is runs for farm animals. The soil is mostly fourth and fifth class.

The farm is near Valasske Mezirici in hilly, wooded country. It is largely open to the north and sheltered from the south by woods.

There are 83 head of cattle now, thirty-four of which are milen cows, 5 pregnant heifers, and one breed bull. There are 97 pigs, five of which are some

During the Two-Year Plan, attempts were made to raise young cattle at Branky. Two bullocks and five heifers were selected. From May to September they were pastured under good conditions, since they gained an average of .61 kilogram per head per day.

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